(N° 39) 10

A LETTER
FROM
The Lord of Leicester,
to the Right Honourable the Earle of *Northumberland*, and by him communicated to the House of PEERES.

Declaring the true causes of his long stay at Court, and with what earnest desires he continually pressed His Majesty to assigne his dispatch, which He notwithstanding denied to grant.

Also how and in what manner His Majesty took away the Horses bought by the Parliament fot the service of *Ireland*, and imployed them to his owne use.

Die Lunæ Septemb. 26. 1642.

ORdered by the Lords in Parliament, That this Letter shall be forthwith printed and published. J. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON,
Printed for *Iohn Wright*, Septemb. 27. 1642.

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A LETTER
SENT FROM
The Earle of LEICESTER
TO THE
Earle of *Northumberland*.

MY LORD,

THough I have written thrice to the Commissioners for the affaires of *Ireland*, since my comming from *London*, to give them account of my stay at Court, and that I have also written severall Letters to some particular friends in hope that thereby the truth might be knowne and my selfe rightly understood: Yet because those Lettets peradventure may have miscarried, and least I should incurre the censure of the Parliament for negligence or slacknesse in that service, to which I have been designed, I will trnely and as briefly as I can, relate to your Lordship how I have behaved my selfe; And if your Lordship please, you may communicate it to the House of Peeres, as in your judgement and favour to me you shall thinke fit; and I hope it will appeare, that

as I have been very impatieht of this delay, so I have not wanted diligence in the solicitation of my dispatch.

When I came to Yorke, I told the King that I was come thither to receive His Majesties commandements and instructions for that imployment which he had done me the honour to confer upon me, and I did humbly beseech him that I might not be stayed at Court because the Parliament did desire my speedy repaire into *Ireland*, and that his service, as I conceived did require it, at least that some Governour (if I were not thought worthy of it) should be presently sent into that Kingdome. The King told me that he would thinke of it, but I must confesse I did not finde His Majesty so ready to dispatch me as I hoped and expected; From that time I did not faile to beseech His Majesty to send me away upon every oportunity that I had of speaking to him, and I thinke there passed not a day that I did not desire the Secretarys of state and some other persons about the King to put His Majesty in mind of me, and to hasten my dismission; And divers times I made it my petition to the King that he would dispatch me, or declare His intention that he would not let me goe at all; the King said my instructions should be drawn, and that he would give order to Mr. Secretary *Nicholas* to do it as speedily as he could; in expectation whereof, I stayed about 3 weekes, till the King came from *Yorke*, when His Majesty appointed me to follow him to *Nottingham* and there I should have my expeditions, I obeyed His Majesty and came after him to this Towne where I have attended ever since perpetually solliciting to be dispatched, and beseeching His Majesty that I might either goe to my imployment, or have His leave to retire my selfe to my own house and private condition; That if he were unwilling to trust me in an imployment of so great importance, I did beseech him that I might be no burthen to his thoughts, And that he would be so gratious as to let me know his resolution, for I conceived my selfe to be under a heavy censure both of the Parliament, and of the whole Kingdome, whilest possibly they might thinke it my fault that I was so long absent from that charge which I had undertaken. It is to no purpose to tell you

every

every passage, but this I protest to your Lordship, That if it had beene to save the lives of all my friends, and of my selfe, I could not have done more to procure my dispatch; Nevertheleſſe I have not beene able to advance it one ſtep, nor have I ſeene any token to make me hope to have it quickly till this morning, when Master Secetary *Nicholas* gave me a draught of my instructions to peruse, and so I hope that between this and munday I shall have done that part, And I will do the best I can in procuring some other thing, without which I know not how I shall be able to doe any acceptable service in that Kingdome, your Lordship knowes I am a servant, and I could not runne away if I would, or at least it had beene to little purpose though I should have adventured to doe so undecent, and so undutifull an action; Therefore I hope it will be believed that I have not beene to blame; now with your Lordships leave, I shall trouble you with another particular, wherein perhaps I suffer in the opinion of them that know not what hath passed, though I be as innocent as a new borne Child, nay, I have opposed it as much as I had power to doe so. The King being informed at *Yorke* by some officious persons that there were certaine draught Horses provided to be sent into *Ireland*, His Majesty told me that he must needs have them for his owne use, I did humbly beseech him not to take them away from his owne service in *Ireland*, for which they were bought, and in which they were to be imployed, and besides, what I sayed my selfe, I made meanes by others to save the Horses, so as I heard no more of it, till I came hither, but then His Majesty told me againe that he must needs have those Horses, and would have me send for them; I represented to His Majesty the inconsiderableneſſe of those few Horses, and that the Parliament might take it very ill in regard that the Horses were bought with their money for the servce of the poore Kingdome of *Ireland*, therefore I did beseech him not to take them, or howsoever that he would secure me from being an instrument in that which I conceived would much hurt his affaires, and that I beeing trusted by the Parliament, could neither doe it my selfe, nor consent that any other should doe that

which was a breach of truſt, and a great diſſervice even to His Majeſty Himſelfe. Notwithſtanding this, the King ſent unto me by Maſter *Endimion* Porter, and Sir *Gorge Hay* at ſeverall times to the like purpoſe, but I returned the ſame anſwer, adding this alſo that I could not doe it, and be an honeſt man to his ſervice, though it be true that the King ſaid he would reſtore the Horſes or pay for them; But for all this, It pleaſed his Majeſty to imploy one *Errington* that ſerved me, and gave him a warrant to fetch the Horſes, *Errington* told me of it, I forbad him as farre as I could to doe it, and told him that if he did it, he muſt not looke to have any thing more to doe with me for ever, and further that I made no doubt but the Parliament would hang him for ſtealing their Horſes, This and more I ſaid to *Errington* in the preſence of *Iames Battiere* my Secretary who will witneſſe it. And conceiving it to be an unjuſt thing in it ſelfe, diſpleaſing to the Parliament, and hurtfull to the Kings ſervice, I proteſted againſt it, though *Errington* ſaid His Majeſty had commanded him upon his allegiance to execute the warrant: But indeed I told him, that I did not believe him nor could thinke that His Majeſty would command a ſubject upon his allegiance to take away other mens Horſes; This I thought ſufficient, but it ſeeme I was deceived, for *Errington* without my conſent or knowledge went from *Nottingham* towards *Cheſter* as I heard afterwards, and I have never ſeene him ſince nor heard from him, what he hath done I doe not know, But I ſent to *Cheſter* that the Horſes ſhould be preſently ſhipt away, and I cauſed my Secretary to write to Maſter *Hawkin* to take care that neither *Errington*, nor any body for him ſhould receive any more money of Maſter *Loftus* or his deputy, to provide the reſt of the Horſes, for as yet I thinke there hath beene onely 1600 l. iſſued to buy 200 of the 600 Horſes allowed by the Parliament; And of that 1600 l I will doe the beſt I can to get a good accoumpt whereof the Parliament God willing ſhall be informed with my beſt care and dilligence: Truely my Lord I doe the beſt I can to ſerve my

Country

Country, they that are wiser may doe more, but of any thing contrary to the duty of an honest man, the Parliament upon strickt examination shall never finde me guilty, for the reputation of honesty and fidelity is (and I can say no more) as deere unto me as your esteeming me,

Your Lordships humble and Affectionate servant

LEICESTER.

FINIS.